

PIT

PITMIRE. *n. f.* [myna, Sax. *piſmiere*, Dutch.] An ant; an cannet.

His cloaths, as atoms might prevail,
Might fit a *pitmire* or a whale. *Prior.*

Prejudicial to fruit are *piſmires*, caterpillars and mice. *Mort.*
To PISS. *v. n.* [*piſſer*, Fr. *piſſen*, Dutch.] To make water.

I charge the *piſſing* conduit run nothing but claret. *Shakeſp.*
One als *piſſes*, the reſt *piſſ* for company. *L'Eſtrange.*

Once poſſeſſ'd of what with care you ſave,
The wanton boys would *piſſ* upon your grave. *Dryden.*

PISS. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Urine; animal water.
My ſpleen is at the little rogues, it would vex one more to
be knock'd on the head with a *piſſ*-pot than a thunder
bolt. *Pope to Swift.*

PISSABED. *n. f.* A yellow flower growing in the graſs.
PISSBURN. *adj.* Stained with urine.

PISTACHIO. *n. f.* [*piſtache*, Fr. *piſtachi*, Italian; *piſtacia*,
Latin.]

The *piſtachio* is a dry fruit of an oblong figure, pointed at
both ends about half an inch in length, and a third of an inch
in thickneſs: it has a double ſhell, the exterior one mem-
branaceous and thin, and the inner hard, tough and woody:

the kernel is of a green colour and a ſoft and unctuous ſub-
ſtance, much like the pulp of an almond, of a pleaſant taſte:

piſtachios were known to the ancients, and the Arabians call
them *piſtuch* and *ſeſtuch*, and we ſometimes *ſiſtich* nuts. *Hill.*

Piſtachios, ſo they be good, and not muſty, joined with al-
monds, are an excellent nourisher. *Bacon's Nat. Hiſt.*

PISTE. *n. f.* [French.] The track or tread a horſeman makes
upon the ground he goes over.

PSTILLATION. *n. f.* [*piſtillum*, Lat.] The act of pounding
in a mortar.

The beſt diamonds we have are comminable, and ſo far
from breaking hammers, that they ſubmit unto *piſtillation*,
and reſiſt not an ordinary peſtle. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PISTOL. *n. f.* [*piſtole*, *piſtolet*, Fr.] A ſmall hand-gun.
Three watch the door with *piſtole*, that none ſhould iſſue
out. *Shakeſp. Merry Wives of Windsor.*

The whole body of the horſe paſſed within *piſtole*-ſhot of
the cottage. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

Quickſilver diſcharged from a *piſtole* will hardly pierce
through a parchment. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

A woman had a tubercle in the great canthus of the eye, of
the ſigneſs of a *piſtole*-bullet. *Wijeman's Surgery.*

TO PISTOL. *v. a.* [*piſtole*, Fr.] To ſhoot with a *piſtole*.

PISTOLE. *n. f.* [*piſtole*, Fr.] A coin of many countries and
many degrees of value.

I ſhall diſburden him of many hundred *piſtoles*, to make
him lighter for the journey. *Dryden's Spaniſh Fryar.*

PISTOLET. *n. f.* [diminutive of *piſtole*.] A little *piſtole*.
Thoſe unlickt bear-whelps, unlick'd *piſtoles*

That, more than cannon-shot, avails or lets. *Donne.*

PISTON. *n. f.* [*piſton*, Fr.] The movable part in ſeveral ma-
chines; as in pumps and ſyringes, whereby the ſuction or at-
traction is cauſed; an embolus.

PIT. *n. f.* [pit, Saxon.]

1. A hole in the ground.
Get you gone,
And from the *pit* of Acheron
Meet me i' th' morning. *Shakeſp. Macbeth.*

Tumble me into ſome loathſome *pit*,
Where never man's eye may behold my body. *Shakeſp.*

Our enemies have beat us to the *pit*;
It is more worthy to leap in ourſelves,
Than tarry 'till they puſh us. *Shakeſp. Julius Cæſar.*

Pits upon the ſea-ſhore turn into freſh water, by percola-
tion of the ſalt through the ſand; but in ſome places of Africa,
the water in ſuch *pits* will become brackiſh again. *Bacon.*

2. A byſs; profundity.
Into what *pit* thou ſeeſt
From what height fallen. *Milton.*

3. The grave.
O Lord, think no ſcorn of me, leſt I become like them
that go down into the *pit*. *Pſalm xxviii. 1.*

4. The area on which cocks fight; whence the phraſe, to fly
the *pit*.
Make him glad, at leaſt, to quit
His victory, and fly the *pit*. *Hudibras.*

They managed the diſpute as fiercely, as two game-cocks
in the *pit*. *Locke on Education.*

5. The middle part of the theatre.
Let Cully, Cockwood, Fopling charm the *pit*,
And in their folly ſhew the writers wit. *Dryden.*

Now luck for us, and a kind hearty *pit*;
For he who pleaſes, never fails of wit. *Dryden.*

6. [*Pis*, old Fr. from *pellus*, Lat.] Any hollow of the
body: as, the *pit* of the ſtomach; the arm *pit*.
A dint made by the finger.

7. To PIT. *v. a.* To ſink in hollows.
An anafarca, a ſpecies of dropſy, is characteriſed by the
ſhining and ſoftneſs of the ſkin, which gives way to the leaſt
impreſſion, and remains *pitted* for ſome time. *Sharp.*

PITAPAT. *n. f.* [probably from *pas a pas*, or *passe patte*, Fr.]

PIT

1. A flutter; a palpitation.
A lion meets him, and the fox's heart went *pitapat*. *L'Eſtr.*

2. A light quick ſtep.
Now I hear the *pitapat* of a pretty foot through the dark
alley: no, 'tis the ſon of a mare that's broken looſe, and
munching upon the melons. *Dryden's Don Sebastian.*

PITCH. *n. f.* [pic, Sax. *pix*, Lat.] The reſin of the pine ex-
tracted by fire and inſpilled.

They that touch *pitch* will be defiled. *Proverbs.*
Of air and water mixed together, and conſumed with fire,
Is made a black colour; as in charcoal, oil, *pitch* and
links. *Peacham on Drawing.*

A veſſel ſmeared round with *pitch*. *Milton.*

2. [From *piſci*, Fr. *Skimmer*.] Any degree of elevation or
height.

Lovely concord and moſt ſacred peace
Doth nourish virtue, and faſt friendſhip breeds,
Weak makes ſtrong, and ſtrong things does increaſe,
Till it the *pitch* of hiſt'ry exceeds. *Fairy Queen.*

How high a *pitch* his reſolution ſoars. *Shakeſp.*
Arm thy heart, and fill thy thoughts
To mount aloft with thy imperial miſtreſs,
And mount her *pitch*. *Shakeſp. Titus Andronicus.*

Between two hawks, which flies the higher *pitch*,
I have, perhaps, ſome ſhallow judgment. *Shakeſp.*

Down they fell,
Driv'n headlong from the *pitch* of heav'n, down
Into this deep. *Milton's Par. Loſt, b. ii.*

Cannons ſhoot the higher *pitch*. *Hudibras.*
The lower we let down their breeches,
Alciades was one of the beſt orators of his age, not-
withſtanding he lived at a time when learning was at the
hiſt'ry *pitch*. *Addiſon's Wiſg Examiner.*

3. Hiſt'ry riſe.
A beauty waining, and diſtreſſed widow,
Seduc'd the *pitch* and height of all his thoughts
To baſe declenſion and loath'd bigamy. *Shakeſp.*

4. State with reſpect to lowneſs or height.
From this high *pitch* let us deſcend
A lower flight; and ſpeak of things at hand. *Milton.*

By how much from the top of wondrous glory,
Strongeſt of mortal men,
To loweſt *pitch* of abject fortune thou art fall'n. *Milton.*

5. Size; ſtature.
That infernal monſter having caſt
His weary foe into the living well,
Gan high advance his broad diſcoloured breaſt
Above his wonted *pitch*. *Fairy Queen.*

Were the whole frame here,
It is of ſuch a ſpacious lofty *pitch*,
Your roof were not ſufficient to contain it. *Shakeſp.*

It turn'd itſelf to Ralpho's ſhape;
So like in perſon, garb and *pitch*,
'Twas hard t' interpret which was which. *Hudibras.*

6. Degree; rate.
To overcome in battle, and ſubdue
Nations, and bring home ſpoils, with infinite
Manſlaughter, ſhall be held the hiſt'ry *pitch*
Of human glory. *Milton's Par. Loſt, b. xi.*

Our reſident Tom
From Venice is come,
And hath left the ſtateſman behind him,
Talks at the fame *pitch*,
Is as wife, is as rich,
And juſt where you left him, you find him. *Donham.*

Princes that fear'd him, grieve; concern'd to ſee
No *pitch* of glory from the grave is free. *Wallor.*

Evangelical innocence, ſuch as the goſpel accepts, though
mingled with ſeveral infirmities and defects, yet amounts to
ſuch a *pitch* of righteouſneſs, as we call ſincerity. *South.*

When the ſun's heat is thus far advanced, 'tis but juſt
come up to the *pitch* of another ſet of vegetables, and but
great enough to excite the terreſtrial particles, which are more
ponderous. *Woodward's Natural Hiſtory.*

TO PITCH. *v. a.* [*appiciare*, Italian.]

1. To fix; to plant.
On Dardan plains the Greeks do *pitch*
Their brave pavilions. *Shakeſp. Troilus and Cressida.*

Sharp ſtokes, pluckt out of hedges,
They *pitched* in the ground. *Shakeſp. Henry VI.*

He counſell'd him how to hunt his game,
What dart to caſt, what uſe, what to *pitch*. *Fairfax.*

David prepared a place for the ark of God, and *pitched* for
it a tent. *Chron. xv. 1.*

Mahometes *pitched* his tents in a little meadow.
When the victor
Had conquered Thebes, he *pitched* upon the plain
His mighty camp. *Dryden's Knight's Tale.*

To Chaffin's pleaſing plains he took his way,
There *pitched* his tents, and there relolv'd to ſtay. *Dryden.*

The trenches firſt they paſſ'd, then took their way
Where their proud foes in *pitch'd* pavilions lay. *Dryden.*

2. To

PIT

2. To order regularly.
In ſetting down the form of common prayer, there was
no need to mention the learning of a fit, or the unſiteſs of
an ignorant miniſter, more than that he, which deſcribeth
the manner how to *pitch* a field, ſhould ſpeak of moderation
and ſobriety in diet. *Hooker, b. v. f. 31.*

One *pitched* battle would determine the fate of the Spaniſh
continent. *Addiſon on the State of the War.*

3. To throw headlong; to caſt forward.
They'll not *pitch* me i' th' mire,
Unleſs he bid 'em. *Shakeſp. Temp'eſt.*

They would wreſtle, and *pitch* the bar for a whole after-
noon. *Speſtator, N^o 434.*

4. To ſinear with PITCH. [*pic*, Lat. from the noun.]

The ark *pitch* within and without. *Genſis vi. 14.*
The Trojans mount their ſhips, born on the waves,
And the *pitch'd* veſſels glide with eaſy force. *Dryden.*

Some *pitch* the ends of the timber in the walls, to preſerve
them from the mortar. *Moxon's Mechanical Exerciſe.*

I *pitched* over the convex very thinly, by dropping melted
pitch upon it, and warming it to keep the *pitch* ſoft, whiſt
I ground it with the concave copper wetted to make it ſpread
evenly all over the convex. *Newton's Opticks.*

5. To darken.
The air hath ſtar'd the roſes in her cheeks,
And *pitch'd* the lily tincture of her face. *Shakeſp.*

The welkin *pitch'd* with ſullen cloud. *Addiſon.*

6. To pave.
TO PITCH. *v. n.*

1. To light; to drop.
When the ſwarm is ſettled, take a branch of the tree
whereon they *pitch*, and wipe the hive clean. *Mortimer.*

2. To fall headlong.
The courſer o'er the pommel caſt the knight;
Forward he flew, and *pitching* on his head,
He quiver'd with his feet, and lay for dead. *Dryden.*

3. To fix choice.
We think 'tis no great matter which,
They're all alike, yet we ſhall *pitch*
On one that fits our purpoſe. *Hudibras.*

A free agent will *pitch* upon ſuch a part in his choice, with
knowledge certain. *More's Divine Dialogues.*

The ſubject I have *pitched* upon may ſeem improper. *South.*
I *pitched* upon this conſideration that parents owe their chil-
dren, not only material ſubſiſtence, but much more ſpiritual
contribution to their mind. *Digby on the Soul.*

The covetous man was a good while at a ſtand; but he
came however by degrees to *pitch* upon one thing after an-
other. *L'Eſtrange's Fables.*

Pitch upon the beſt courſe of life, and cuſtom will render
it the moſt eaſy. *Tillotſon's Sermons.*

I tranſlated Chaucer, and amongſt the reſt *pitched* on the
wife of Bath's tale. *Dryden's Fables.*

4. To fix a tent or temporary habitation.
They *pitched* by Emmaus in the plain. *1 Mac. iii. 40.*

PICTURAR. *n. f.* [*piccher*, French.]

1. An earthen veſſel; a water pot.
With ſuddain fear her *pitcher* down ſhe threw
And fled away. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*

Pitchers have ears, and I have many ſervants;
Beſides old Gremio is hearkening. *Shakeſp.*

Pyræus was only famous for counterfeiting all baſe things;
as earthen *pitchers* and a ſcuttery. *Peacham on Drawing.*

Hylas may drop his *pitcher*, none will cry,
Not if he drown himſelf. *Dryden.*

2. An inſtrument to pierce the ground in which any thing is to
be fixed.
To the hills poles muſt be ſet deep in the ground, with a
ſquare iron *pitcher* or crow. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

PICTURAR. *n. f.* [*pitch* and *fork*.] A fork with which corn
is thrown upon the waggon.

An old lord in Leiceſterſhire amuſed himſelf with mending
pitchforks and ſpades for his tenants gratis. *Swift.*

PITCHINESS. *n. f.* [from *pitch*.] Blackneſs; darkneſs.

PITCHY. *adj.* [from *pitch*.]

1. Smeared with *pitch*.
The planks, their *pitchy* cov'rings waſh'd away,
Now yield; and now a yawning breach diſplay. *Dryden.*

2. Having the qualities of *pitch*.
Native petroleum, found floating upon ſome ſprings, is no
other than this very *pitchy* ſubſtance, drawn forth of the ſtrata
by the water. *Woodward on Fossils.*

3. Black; dark; diſmal.
Night is fled,
Whoſe *pitchy* mantle over-veil'd the earth. *Shakeſp.*

I will ſort a *pitchy* day for thee. *Shakeſp. Henry VI.*

Pitchy and dark the night ſometimes appears,
Fried to our woe, and parent of our fears;
Our joy and wonder ſometimes ſhe excites,
With ſtars unnumber'd. *Prior.*

PIT

PITCOAL. *n. f.* [*pit* and *coal*.] Fossil coal.
The beſt fuel is peat, the next charcoal made of *pitcoal* of
cinders. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

PIT-MAN. *n. f.* [*pit* and *man*.] He that in ſawing timber works
below in the pit.

With the *pitman* they enter the one end of the ſtuff, the
topman at the top, and the *pitman* under him: the topman
obſerving to guide the ſaw exactly, and the *pitman* drawing it
with all his ſtrength perpendicularly down. *Moxon.*

PIT-SAW. *n. f.* [*pit* and *saw*.] The large ſaw uſed by two
men, of whom one is in the pit.

The *pitſaw* is not only uſed by thoſe workmen that ſaw
timber and boards, but is alſo for ſmall matters uſed by
joiners. *Moxon's Mechanical Exerciſes.*

PITEOUS. *adj.* [from *pity*.]

1. Sorrowful; mournful; exciting pity.
When they heard that *piteous* ſtrained voice,
In haſte forſook their rural merriment. *Fairy Queen.*

The moſt arch deed of *piteous* mallice,
That ever yet this land was guilty of. *Shakeſp. Rich. III.*

Beheld, he wept. *Dryden.*

2. Compaſſionate; tender.
If the ſeries of thy joys
Permit one thought leſs cheerful to ariſe,
Piteous transfer it to the mournful ſwain. *Prior.*

She gave him, *piteous* of his caſe,
A ſtaggy tap'try. *Pope's Dunciad.*

3. Wretched; paltry; pitiful.
Piteous amends! unleſs
Be meant our grand foe. *Milton's Par. Loſt.*

PITEOUSLY. *adv.* [from *piteous*.] In a *piteous* manner.
I muſt talk of murders, rapes and maſſacres,
Ruthful to hear, yet *piteouſly* perform'd. *Shakeſp.*

PITEOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *piteous*.] Sorrowfulneſs; tenderneſs.

PI TFALL. *n. f.* [*pit* and *fall*.] A pit dug and covered, into
which a paſſenger falls unexpectedly.

Poor bird! thou'd'ſt never fear the net nor lime,
The *pitfall* nor the gin. *Shakeſp. Macbeth.*

Thieves dig concealed *pitfalls* in his way. *Sandys.*

Theſe hidden *pitfalls* were ſet thick at the entrance of the
bridge, ſo that throngs of people fell into them. *Addiſon.*

PITH. *n. f.* [*pitte*, Dutch.]

1. The marrow of the plant; the ſoft part in the midſt of the
wood.

If a cion, fit to be ſet in the ground, hath the *pith* finely
taken forth, and not altogether, but ſome of it left, it will bear
a fruit with little or no core. *Bacon's Natural Hiſtory.*

Her ſolid bones convert to ſolid wood,
To *pith* her marrow, and to ſap her blood. *Dryden.*

2. Marrow.
As doth the *pith*, which left our bodies ſlack,
Strings ſalt the little bones of neck and back;
So by the ſoft doth death ſtring heav'n and earth. *Donne.*

The vertebres are all perforated in the middle, with a large
hole for the ſpinal marrow or *pith* to paſs along. *Ray.*

3. Strength; force.
Pith in Scotland is ſtill retained as denoting ſtrength, either
corporeal or intellectual: as, that defies all your *pith*.
Leave your England,
Guarded with grandfires, babies and old women,
Or paſſ'd, or not arriv'd to *pith* and puſſance. *Shakeſp.*

4. Energy; cogency; fulneſs of ſentiment; cloſeneſs and vi-
gour of thought and ſtile. *Shakeſp.*

5. Weight; moment; principal part.
That's my *pith* of buſineſs
'Twixt you and your poor brother. *Shakeſp.*

Enterprizes of great *pith* and moment,
With this regard their currents turn awry,
And loſe the name of action. *Shakeſp. Hamlet.*

6. The quinteſſence; the chief part.
The owner of a foul diſeaſe,
To keep it from divulging, lets it feed
Ev'n on the *pith* of life. *Shakeſp. Hamlet.*

PI THILY. *adv.* [from *pitthy*.] With ſtrength; with cogency;
with force.

PI THINESS. *n. f.* [from *pitthy*.] Energy; ſtrength.
No leſs deſerveth his witneſs in deviſing,